

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 016778/0437

Applicant: Yukio MORISHIGE et al.
Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR CORRECTING PATTERN FILM ON
A SEMICONDUCTOR SUBSTRATE
Serial No. 09/981,712
Filed: October 19, 2001
Examiner: Unknown
Art Unit: 2881

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 and 37 CFR §1.97**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

Match and Return

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (first scenario). If that is not the case, such as in a second scenario in which a first Office Action on the merits has been mailed before the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement, then either a certification or fee is required, and a certification is provided below. If neither of the first or second scenarios is the case, such as if a final Office Action or a notice of allowance has been mailed by the PTO (third scenario), then both a certification and fee are required, and in that case a certification is provided below and also the PTO is authorized to obtain the necessary fee to have the instant IDS considered, from Foley & Lardner Deposit Account #19-0741.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

A translation of a portion of a Korean Office Action that issued September 8, 2003 with respect to a counterpart Korean patent application is provided below.

"The invention described in Claims 1 to 12 of the present application could have been easily invented by a person having ordinary knowledge in the technical field to which that invention belongs prior to this application based on the items indicated below, and therefore a patent cannot be granted pursuant to the stipulations of Article 29 Paragraph 2 of the Japan Patent Law.

[Note]

Claims 1 to 12 of the invention of the present application are related to a method to correct defects of a pattern film on a substrate surface wherein the method to correct defects of a pattern film on a substrate surface is mainly characterized by including a step to support the aforementioned substrate surface facing downward, a step to spray material gas for the purpose of forming a pattern film on the aforementioned surface; and a step to form a pattern film on white defects on the aforementioned surface by irradiating the aforementioned white defects with laser light facing upward.

This is similar to an invention that combines [1] the photo mask correction system of Cited Literature 1, Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S63-36249 (disclosed on February 16, 1988), wherein a compound containing chrome is gasified, a support means is provided to support the photo mask in the aforementioned gas when correcting white defects, ultraviolet laser light is used when correcting the aforementioned white defects, and the aforementioned white defects are corrected by focused irradiation of the aforementioned ultraviolet laser light on the aforementioned photo mask supported in the aforementioned gas by the aforementioned support means; with [2] the focused ion beam equipment to correct defects of Cited Literature 2, Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication H8-227145 (disclosed on September 3, 1996) configured by a stage driven in the XY directions within a vacuum chamber, an ion beam irradiation optical system, a gas spray outlet to spray compound gas on samples irradiated by the ion beam, a charged particle detector to detect secondary charged particles from the sample, and control equipment to correct the scan region of the ion beam. Both of these together could prevent the excess growth of a pattern film, and because the effect of being able to prevent the size growing irregularly is substantially the same, a patent cannot be received pursuant to the stipulations of the Japan Patent Law Article 29, Paragraph 2.

Attachments

Cited Literature 1: Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication S63-36249 (disclosed on February 16, 1988) 1 part

Cited Literature 2: Japanese Unexamined Patent Application
Publication H8-227145 (disclosed on
September 3, 1996) 1 part."

Applicant's statements regarding the Korean Office Action is based on a partial translation that Applicant's representative obtained. This statement should in no way be considered as an agreement by Applicant with, or an admission of, what is asserted in the Korean Office Action.

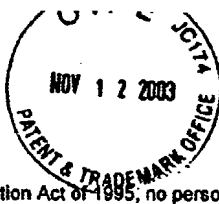
Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

November 12, 2003
Date

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MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Date Submitted: November 12, 2003

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/981712
Filing Date	10/19/2001
First Named Inventor	Yukio MORISHIGE
Group Art Unit	2881
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	016778-0437

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A1	JP	8-227145			09/03/1996		X

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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